Remarks

The Office Action mailed June 21, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-51 are now pending in this application with entry of this Amendment.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected. No claims stand objected to. No Claims have been cancelled.

Claims 21-51 are newly added.

A fee calculation sheet for the newly added claims along with authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of the calculated fee are submitted herewith. No extension of time is required for entry of this Amendment, but if one is required and/or if any additional fee is required for entry of this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to consider this a conditional request for the necessary extension of time and/or authorization to charge the correct fees to the Deposit Account indicated on the fee calculation sheet.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to the undersigned by Examiner Paladini for the voice mail message left on September 17, 2004 concerning the status of the drawing review. It is understood that a draftsperson at the Office will review the drawings at a later date, as such review becomes necessary.

Claim 4 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. It is submitted that this amendment merely removes a redundancy and does not affect the scope of the subject matter recited in Claim 4.

The rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Bigelow is respectfully traversed.

Bigelow discloses a system and method for generating at least one digital drawing and a plurality of drawing views. The system consists of a server associated with a client, a data storage device, and a CAD system that generates the drawings of parts. The CAD product can be displayed as a drawing. The Office correctly notes that Bigelow does not teach or suggest "pre-stored orthographic projection rules" as recited in Claim 1, nor does Bigelow

teach or suggest a "bracket" or a "gas turbine engine." More particularly, Bigelow describes a system for designing CAD assemblies and products over a network. A client receives product configuration forms, and a designer uses the form to generate a CAD product design. Once the completed form is submitted, the server CAD adapter generates assembly instructions, which are executed by the CAD system to generate the completed product design based on inputs from the product configuration form. See Abstract, col. 4, lines 6-16, and col. 5, lines 29-46, for example. When the product configuration form is submitted by an end user, the server CAD adapter instructs the CAD system how to complete the product design and the CAD system generates the product design and the desired output. The output from the CAD system can include a drawing of the product design, which is displayed on the client. See col. 9, lines 41-48. In an optional step, the server CAD adapter determines the assembly procedure for the CAD objects and determines the desired output from the output type fields from the configuration form. See col. 9, line 66 to col. 10, line 4. The system can create or export a variety of outputs, see col. 10, lines 10-18. However, nowhere is it taught or suggested to utilize an input device to select desired drawing views and utilize a view module to compare non-selected drawing views to a computer-generated model to ensure that a necessary drawing view is not inadvertently deleted.

By contrast, Applicants' Claim 1 as herein amended recites, among other things, "... utilizing an input device to select desired said drawing views; [and] utilizing a view module to compare non-selected said drawing views to the computer generated model to ensure that a necessary drawing view is not inadvertently deleted ...". By providing a user with the option to select drawing views and utilizing a view module of a program to ensure that a necessary drawing view is not inadvertently deleted, Applicants' invention as claimed in Claim 1 provides a user with flexibility to select the views he or she wants while providing the assurance that the program will not let him or her delete views that are actually required.

For the above reasons, it is submitted that Claim 1 is patentable over Bigelow.

Claims 2-6 are directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, it is submitted that Claims 2-6 are likewise patentable over Bigelow.

Claim 7 is directed to an apparatus that is configured to provide the functionality that distinguishes Claim 1 over Bigelow. Therefore, it is submitted that Claim 7 is likewise patentable over Bigelow.

Claims 8-12 are directly or indirectly dependent upon Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, it is submitted that Claims 8-12 are likewise patentable over Bigelow.

Claim 13 is directed to a system for generating a digital drawing of a computer generated model of a part, wherein the server system is configured to "... generate a plurality of digital drawing views based on the computer-generated model, said server system configured to input a selection of desired said drawing views selected by a user, and said processor programmed to compare non-selected said drawing views to the computer-generated model to ensure that a drawing view necessary to illustrate a spacer is not inadvertently omitted." As with Claims 1 and 7, Bigelow does not teach or suggest a method or apparatus involving or configured to allow the selection of desired drawing views and a processor programmed to compare non-selected drawing views to a computer-generated model to ensure that a drawing view necessary to illustrate a spacer is not inadvertently omitted.

Thus, it is submitted that Claim 13 is likewise patentable over Bigelow.

Claims 14-20 depend directly or indirectly upon Claim 13. When the recitations of Claims 14-20 are considered in conjunction with the recitations of Claim 13, it is submitted that Claims 14-20 are likewise patentable over Bigelow.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-20 be withdrawn.

Newly added dependent Claims 21-31 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of these claims are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 21-31 likewise are patentable over the

cited art. Furthermore, Claims 21-31 recite utilizing various modules of the computer program to perform various operations that are either absent in the apparatus and method describe by Bigelow or, at most, are performed manually without the aid of a programmed module. Thus, Applicants submit that each of Claims 21-31 are also separately patentable over Bigelow.

Newly added dependent Claims 32- 42 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of these claims are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that Claims 32-41 likewise are patentable over the cited art. Furthermore, Claims 32-41 recite a processor programmed to perform various operations that are either absent in the apparatus and method describe by Bigelow or, at most, are performed manually without the processor being programmed to perform the recited functions. Thus, Applicants submit that each of Claims 32-41 are also separately patentable over Bigelow.

Newly added dependent Claims 43- 52 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of these claims are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicants submit that Claims 43-52 likewise are patentable over the cited art. Furthermore, Claims 43-52 recite a processor programmed to perform various operations that are either absent in the apparatus and method describe by Bigelow or, at most, are performed manually without the processor being programmed to perform the recited functions. Thus, Applicants submit that each of Claims 43-52 are also separately patentable over Bigelow.

The Office noted that the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 5, 2002 contains a large number of references that appear to be cumulative and which are consistent with the progress in the art. The Office requested Applicants to identify specific references, features, sections, or figures in references cited that are believed to have particular significance in the prosecution of this application or which are considered material to the patentability of the pending claims, for further consideration.

The cited Information Disclosure Statement consists of references found by Applicants, provided to Applicants attorney, and filed in an Information Disclosure Statement to satisfy the duties owed to the Patent and Trademark Office during the pendancy of this patent application. As correctly noted by the Office, these references, taken as a whole, illustrate what Applicants believe is the current state of progress in the art to which this Application is most closely associated, and are material to the examination of the patent application for this reason. Of the references, features, sections and figures included in the IDS references submitted by Applicants, Applicants do not believe any are of such particular significance to warrant special identification as such.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Sept. 21, 2004

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan L. Cassel

Registration No. 35,842

ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600

St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740

(314) 621-5070